

AN ACT

For the taking away the

COURT

OF

Wards and Liveries.

At the Parliament begun at *Westminster* the 17th Day
of *September*, *Anno Domini*, 1656.



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Whereas the Four and twentieth day of February, in the year of our Lord, One thousand six hundred forty five, the Court of Wards and Liveries, and all Ward-ships, Liveries, Primer-seizins, and Distrelemaines, and all other Charges incident or arising for, or by reason of Ward-ships, Liberty, Primer-seizin, or Distrelemaine; And all Tenures by Homage, and all Fines, Licenses, Seizures, and Pardons for Alienation, and all other Charges incident thereunto, was by the Lords and Commons then assembled in Parliament, taken away; And all Tenures by Knights Service, either of the King or others, or by Knights Service, or Capite, or Socage in Capite of the King, were turned into free and common Socage; For the further establishing and confirming the same; Be it Declared and Enacted by his Highness the Lord Protector, and the Parliament, That the Court of Wards and Liveries, and
all

all Ward-ships, Liberities, Primer seizins, and Distrelemains, and all other Charges incident & arising, for, or by reason of any such Tenure, Ward-ship, Libery, Primer seizin, or Distrelemains, be taken away, from the said four and twentieth day of February, One thousand six hundred forty five: And that all Homage, Fines, Licences, Seizures, Wardons for Alienation, incident or arising, for, or by reason of Ward-ship, Libery, Primer-seizin, or Distrelemain, and all other Charges incident thereunto, be likewise taken away, and is hereby adjudged and declared to be taken away, from the said four and twentieth day of February, One thousand six hundred forty five: And that all Tenures in Capite, and by Knights service of the late King, or any other person, and all Tenures by Soccage in Chief, be taken away; and all Tenures are hereby Enacted and Declared to be turned into free and common Soccage, from the said four and twentieth Day of February, one thousand six hundred forty five; and shall be so Construed, Adjudged, and Declared to be for ever hereafter turned into free and common Soccage.

Nevertheless, It is hereby Enacted, That all Rents certain and Heriots, due to Heir Lords or other private Persons, shall be paid; And that where any Relief, or Double ancient yearly Rent, upon the death of an Ancestor, was in such cases formerly due and payable, a Double ancient yearly Rent onely in lieu thereof, shall now be paid upon the death of an Ancestor, as in free and common Soccage; And that the same shall be recovered by the like Remedy in Law, as Rents and Duties in free and common Soccage.

